EXCISE (47)

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Upgraded to C&V
B5 + B-1

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ACTION EUR-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 EA-10 H-01
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SP-02 SPRS-02 /108 W
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O 161017Z SEP 81
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7006
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, PARM
SUBJECT: CW -- SOVIET REACTION TO UNDER SECRETARY STOESSEL'S STATEMENT
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REFS: (A) MOSCOW 12855 (B) MOSCOW 12957

1. SUMMARY: TASS HAS ASSERTED THAT UNDER SECRETARY STOESSEL COULD PRODUCE NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THE SECRETARY'S CHARGE ON CW USE BY THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES. PRAVDA CONTINUES NOT TO MENTION THE U.S. CHARGES OR CARRY THE TASS CRITICISMS, ALTHOUGH IT TODAY PUBLISHED A TASS REPLAY OF AN AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY RESPONSE TO THE CHARGES. SOVIET PROPAGANDA STILL HAS NOT REPORTED THAT THE SECRETARY CHARGED THE USSR WITH VIOLATING THE 1972 BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. [redacted]

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END SUMMARY.

2. A SEPTEMBER 15 TASS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON ASSERTED THAT:

-- THE ADMINISTRATION HAS "STAGED A NEW ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA FARCE, WHICH HAS ENDED IN FAILURE."

-- UNDER SECRETARY STOESSEL "COULD NOT CITE A SINGLE REAL FACT OR EVIDENCE CONFIRMING HIS CHIEF'S INSINUATIONS."

-- HE "DARED NOT DIRECTLY LINK HIS INCOHERENT 'EVIDENCE'" TO THE USSR, AND HE ADMITTED THAT THE "ADMINISTRATION'S 'FINDINGS' WERE PRELIMINARY."

TASS ALSO REPEATED ALLEGATIONS IN ITS DISPATCHES OF SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14 (REFTELS). IT EXPANDED THE

ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARING FOR CHEMICAL WAR TO SAY THAT THE U.S. WAS ALSO PREPARING FOR "BACTERIOLOGICAL WAR."

3. PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 15 AND OTHER PAPERS CARRIED THE AFGHAN BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO THE CW CHARGES (REF B). IZVESTIYA SEPTEMBER 14 CARRIED A SHORTER FORM OF THE TASS ITEM APPEARING IN TRUD SEPTEMBER 14 (REF B).

4. COMMENT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA -- THE TASS CRITICISMS AND THE SOVIET-INSPIRED BAKHTAR PIECE -- CONTINUES NOT TO MENTION THE SECRETARY'S CHARGE THAT THE MANUFACTURE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES OF THE TOXINS USED BY THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES IS FORBIDDEN BY THE BW CONVENTION. THE TASS CRITICISMS HAVE NOT MENTIONED U.S. PLANS TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE TO THE UN, ALTHOUGH THE TASS REPLAY OF THE BAKHTAR STATEMENT DID. [redacted]

B5 & B-1/a 5

5. FOR KABUL: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MCCALL